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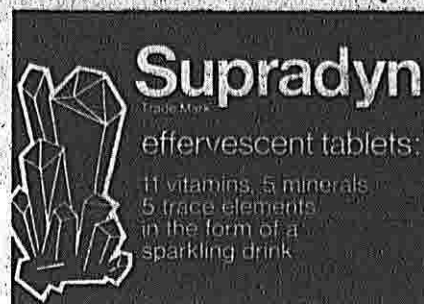
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THE KABUL TIMES



VOL. VI, NO. 298

KABUL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1968 (HOOT 29, 1346 S.H.)

PRICE AF. 3

Harsh Postwar Budget For Britain New Tough Measures Broadly Welcomed By UK Industry

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters).—The Labour government Tuesday slapped extra taxation totalling 923 million sterling on a shocked Britain in its toughest-ever bid to mend the national economy and aid the shaky international financial system.

It was the harshest peacetime budget in history. Roy Jenkins, the new chancellor of the exchequer, imposed higher duties on thousands of consumer goods from whisky to petrol, from pots to motor cars.

At the same time he told Britons that their wage and dividend increases would not be allowed to rise higher than three and a half per cent. He also soaked the rich with a one-year levy on income from investments.

The main points of the budget were:

1. Wages and company dividend increases pegged to a ceiling of three and a half per cent a year for the next 10 months at least. Government has power to delay wage and price increases by a year.
2. Duty on petrol up by four pence a gallon.
3. Whisky and gin is up from two shillings and six pence to two pounds 13 shillings a bottle. No extra tax on beer. Port and sherry up six shillings a gallon one shilling extra per normal bottle.
4. Cigarettes and tobacco is up to three shillings and four pence for the cheapest, six shillings for the most expensive.
5. Annual road tax on motor cars raised to 25 shillings from 17 shilling.
6. Price of automobiles up seven and a half per cent in purchase tax (small family car will cost 488 sterling against previous 460 sterling).
7. Most other consumer goods

Gomulka Outlines Causes Of Polish Student Unrest

WARSAW, March 20, (DPA).—At a meeting with activists in Warsaw, held on March 19th, a speech was made by Wladyslaw Gomulka.

The speaker said that during the last ten days important events had taken place in the country.

"Quite a considerable part of the student youth in Warsaw and other university centres have been deceived and led astray by forces hostile to socialism."

"These forces have sown seeds of adventurous anarchy, of law-breaking among the students. Using the method of provocation they have excited the minds of a part of our youth, with the aim of provoking disturbances in the streets and bloodshed."

In the events which have taken place in our country the dividing line runs between socialism and all kinds of reactionary forces, between the policy of Polish-Soviet friendship and alliance and an anti-Soviet policy of reactionary bankrupts and survivors, between a policy ensuring Poland the security of her frontiers and all-round development, and attempts to push Poland onto the road of ruin."

Acupuncturist Cures Deaf And Dumb Chinese

PEKING, March 20, (AFP).—For the first time in history, a Chinese doctor had cured deaf-and-dumb patients by treating them with acupuncture. The Kuangming, Jih-Pao reported Tuesday.

The inventor of the new cure in an article said he had discovered two vital points for puncturing, one of which controls the organs of hearing and another just behind the nape of the neck which commands the organ of speech.

His first experiment was made on a 15-year-old patient who was said to have recovered the use of these two faculties after a 30-day treatment.

The same treatment had similarly successful results on other patients including several adults, said the paper.

The doctor also remarked that western medicine had been incapable of relieving his patients and that even acupuncture experts had pronounced them incurable.

HM Receives Message On Nonaligned Summit From Marshal Tito

KABUL, March 20, (Bakhtar).—A message on the preparations for a summit of the nonaligned nations for discussions on world peace issues has been received by His Majesty the King from Marshal Tito, the president of Yugoslavia.

The message was delivered to His Majesty by the ambassador of Yugoslavia, Ivan Mirosevic, in an audience with His Majesty in Gulkhana Palace Monday, the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry said.

The ambassador, in accordance with instructions from his government also met Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi in the Prime Ministry and submitted to him the message from his government.

U.S. Frees Entire Gold Stock To Meet \$ Conversion

WASHINGTON, March 20, (Reuters).—U.S. President Johnson has freed the entire U.S. gold stock to meet claims for conversion of dollars for gold by foreign central banks, the White House announced yesterday.

The treasury, meanwhile, revealed that the gold stock dropped another 202 million on March 14, when the U.S. asked Britain to close the London gold market.

The drop brought the remaining gold stock to \$11,232 million its lowest level since November, 1936.

The White House said President Johnson, without public ceremony or announcement at the time, Monday night signed a bill removing the 25 per cent gold cover on the dollar.

KENNEDY WON'T TAKE 2ND SPOT UNDER JOHNSON

MANHATTAN, March 20, (Reuters).—Senator Robert F. Kennedy has rejected any possibility of accepting the Democratic vice president nomination under President Johnson in 1968.

His flat rejection of the idea came while answering questions Monday following an enthusiastically received address to students at Kansas state university.

"I would under no circumstances accept presidency under President Johnson. I think the country needs new leadership and I think we have to change at the top," he said.

Kennedy, who entered the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination on Saturday as an anti-Vietnam war candidate, was widely cheered when he called for immediate efforts to scale down the war.

China, Japan Sign Commercial Minutes

HONG KONG, March 20, (AFP).—China and Japan yesterday signed "the minutes of talks for the promotion of trade" between the two countries the New China news agency reported.

The minutes were signed in Peking between the China council for the promotion of the international trade and the Japanese association for the promotion of international trade and five other Japanese organisations.

The minutes said that the friendly contacts and trade between the Chinese and Japanese people could be developed smoothly only when both struggle against the "UK imperialism, the Soviet revisionism and the Japanese reactionary ruling clique."

West Bank Arabs Flee Jordan Warns UN Israel Prepares For New Attack

UNITED NATIONS, March 20, (AFP).—Jordan's representative at the United Nations yesterday warned that Israeli authorities were preparing a "massive armed attack" against his country.

In a letter to the president of the Security Council, Mohammad

el Fatah said a "very grave situation" would follow any Israeli attack on Jordan.

"There is no doubt that a new armed attack from Israel against Jordan's territory and citizens would lead to a new armed conflict in the region, with Israel bearing full responsibility," he said.

El Fatah cited Israeli statements threatening reprisals after terrorist attacks from Jordanian territory.

Meanwhile a report from Tel Aviv says that Arabs living in Jordanian villages near the Jordan-Israel ceasefire line have started fleeing from their home in large numbers.

The mass exodus followed Israel's warning that Jordan would bear the responsibility of actions committed by the Arab el Fatah organisation.

An Israeli radio commentator said last night that it was "very clear" the el Fatah groups in Jordan had the open support of King Hussein.

There is now strong Iraqi-Jordan cooperation in assisting and organising the el Fatah activities against Israel, the commentator added.

Reports of the flight from the villages came in yesterday from Israel's news agency correspondents, who watched from frontier areas across the Jordan river.

Movement was reported to be particularly marked south of the Galilee and north of the Dead Sea.

Meanwhile in Amman Jordanian Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Abdel Moneim Rifai called several Arab and foreign ambassadors to his office and asked them to inform their governments of the serious consequences which could arise from renewed Israeli aggression.

RHODESIAN AIR FORCE RAIDS NATIONALISTS

SALISBURY, March 20, (Reuters).—Rhodesian troops and police yesterday pursued a large band of African nationalists in thick thorn-bush country along the Zambezi river where 11 nationalists and one white soldier were killed in a running battle Monday.

Rhodesian air force planes carried out air strikes against the nationalists who were reported by Rhodesian authorities to have crossed into the country from Zambia, the Zambezi is the frontier.

The authorities here have given no details of nationalists strength but reliable sources put it at probably 100 and unofficial reports have given higher figures.

In addition to 11 nationalists killed, Rhodesian authorities said they had captured an undisclosed number, Rhodesian losses were given as one soldier killed and an unspecified number wounded.

FRG To Ask Paks. Why They Lost Tarbela Bid

COLOGNE, March 20, (Reuters).—A West German cabinet minister said Tuesday the government wanted an explanation from Pakistan why the Tarbela Dam contract was not given to the West German-Swiss consortium which submitted the lowest tender.

Economic Cooperation Minister Hans-Juergen Wischnewski said an independent commission should investigate the circumstances of the West German government.

Earlier this month the West German-Swiss consortium protested that the World Bank had influenced Pakistan against accepting its tender to build the giant dam.

Pakistan, however, has suggested that the group disqualified itself because it raised its price by 200 million marks (about 20 million sterling) after the tenders were submitted.

Americans Deploying Fastest, Biggest Bombers In Vietnam

SAIGON, March 20, (Reuters).—America's controversial swing-wing F-111 a supersonic fighter bomber will make its combat debut in bombing raids on North Vietnam later this week, a U.S. air force spokesman said here Tuesday.

Six of the sophisticated jets arrived at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force base in Thailand last Sunday in a major effort to bolster America's air punch over North Vietnam.

The spokesman said the needled-nosed F-111a would be combat-tested over the North this week, but he could not reveal targets.

The F-111a is the biggest, fastest working fighting-bomber in American's arsenal, capable of carrying approximately 50,000 pounds of rockets, missiles or bombs. It can deliver nuclear warheads, the air force said.

One of the most versatile planes ever designed, it is the best American fighter-bomber at pinpoint bombing through cloudy weather or night skies, U.S. military sources said.

The planes were sent to Thailand from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada without completing their operational tests so they could be used during the current poor weather period over North Vietnam, the sources said.

But it will be combat-tested through the most dense and accurate anti-aircraft fire of the war, U.S. pilots said. Reports from men who flew raids over the Hanoi and Haiphong areas this week said the anti-aircraft fire was the worst they have ever experienced over the two key North Vietnamese cities.

Amazonian Indians Reduced By Thousands

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 20, (AFP).—A former central government minister and a former state governor are implicated in the murder of several thousand Amazonian Indians over the last 20 years, an official source said here Tuesday.

The source refused to give details due to political pressure being brought upon members of an inquiry commission which announced its findings last week.

The inquiry has been in progress for several months. Last week it was stated that 134 officials of the SPI Indian Protection Service had been charged with maltreatment or murder of Indians under their charge.

It was disclosed yesterday that the inquiry has been held up "owing to the indisposition of public prosecutor Jader de Figueiredo Correia."

It was he who officially handed over to the Interior Ministry the results of the inquiry, carried out in 17 states and territories in equatorial Brazil.

Senate Receives 1347 Budget

KABUL, March 20, (Bakhtar).—The budget for the year 1347 (March 21, 1968 to March 21, 1969) was presented by the Finance Minister Mohammad Anwar Ziaee to the Meshrano Jirga (Senate) yesterday in accordance with Article 75 of the Constitution.

The budget which covers the income and expenses of the state for the next Afghan fiscal year was presented to the president of the senate, Sen. Abdul Hadi Dawi, in an hours meeting with Ziaee.

Meanwhile, the Legal and Legislative Affairs and Financial and Budgetary Affairs committees of the Senate met yesterday and discussed matters related to them.

The draft law on marriage was studied by the legal and legislative Affairs Committee presided over by Mir Mohammad Shah Siddiqyan. The draft law was sent to the secretariat of the house for consideration by the Committee of the Whole House.

The Minister of Communication Eng. Mohammad Azeem Geran and Ghulam Mohammad Secander, president of the Postal Department, attended the meeting of the Financial and Budgetary Affairs Committee and answered questions of the senators. Decisions taken on the air and surface mail were referred to the secretariat to be studied by the Committee of the Whole House.

Etemadi Invited To Pay Official Visit To Iraq

KABUL, March 21, (Bakhtar).—Taher Yahya, the prime minister of Iraq, has invited Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi to pay an official and friendly visit to Iraq at a suitable time the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry said.

The invitation has been submitted by Iraqi Ambassador Ali Jamil Saheb.

The Prime Minister has accepted the invitation with thanks and will pay a visit to Iraq. The date for the visit will be fixed by the two countries.

THE KABUL TIMES

Wishes its readers a happy and prosperous New Year. The offices of the paper will remain closed tomorrow, Thursday, March 21, on the occasion of Nauroz, the new year.

Pakistan Day Parade May Include Mirage Plane Display

KARACHI, March 20, (Reuters).—Pakistan—one of the latest on the growing list of countries buying French military equipment—may unveil her first Mirage supersonic fighter bombers at a military parade in Rawalpindi this weekend.

Usually well-informed sources have said that Pakistan is buying 50 Mirages for its once almost exclusively American-equipped air force.

Two French-built submarines are also on order to bolster Pakistan's armed forces in view of what Rawalpindi sees as a threatening military build-up by its neighbour, India—with whom Pakistan has twice fought the strategic Himalayan state of Kashmir.

The annual Pakistan day parade—to be held on March 23—marks the anniversary of the 1940 Lahore resolution by the Moslem League Party to establish Pakistan as a homeland for Moslems of the then undivided, British-ruled India.

President Ayub Khan usually takes the salute at the parade, but his convalescence after a recent serious illness may keep him away this year.

In 1966, the occasion of the parade was used for a display of a number of Chinese Mig-19's, which Pakistan had acquired.

Observers here believe a flypast

of French-built Mirages at this year's parade would boost morale, following reports of new Soviet arms purchases by India.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shari-uddin Pirzada has told the Soviet Union that selling arms to India will not help to ease troubled Indo-Pakistani relations.

Pakistan has had little success in obtaining from Moscow arms which she sought following the American embargo on arms aid to both India and Pakistan after their second Kashmir conflict in 1965.

Gandhi Unleashing 'Hooligan Rule', Says Opposition

NEW DELHI, March 20, (Reuters).—There was uproar for 40 minutes in India's upper house of parliament here yesterday as opposition members charged Indira Gandhi's government with unleashing "hooligan rule" in Punjab state.

Punjab was one of two North Indian states which collapsed into political chaos raising the possibility that the entire belt of northern India between East and West Pakistan might soon come under direct presidential rule.

Fighting in the Punjab assembly developed over an attempt to pass the state budget. It was passed only after the deputy speaker had overruled an adjournment by the speaker, who had left the assembly.

In parliament here yesterday, opposition members declared the budget was "illegally passed by an illegally constituted assembly." They also alleged that police had entered the Punjab assembly and beaten up opposition members.



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HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR

March 21st is being observed as the day on which racial discrimination and all forms of segregation will receive universal condemnation. It is a happy coincidence that this year has been called by the United Nations the Human Rights Year and consequently not only March 21st but throughout the year Human Rights will receive worldwide emphasis.

It is an irony of our age that while so much is said about human worth and dignity certain regimes are allowed to perpetrate a rule of terror and humiliation against majority of the black population in some African countries. The South African government and the illegal Ian Smith Regime in Southern Rhodesia are following an open policy of racial discrimination.

The indigenous people in both these countries are denied even the most basic human rights. They are not given equal opportunities for work, education housing and above all participating in the government. They do not have any representation in their countries' parliament.

In South Africa the indigenous population is not allowed to sit in the same restaurants or to send their children to the same schools. To live in the same areas or to ride the same buses as the white men do, and yet when a dying whiteman needs the heart of black African there is no legislation to stop the surgeons

Food For Thought

Time has no divisions to mark its passage, there is never a thunder storm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year. Even when a new century begins it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols.

—Thomas man

from carrying out a transplant. The very fact that a black man's heart is now keeping a white man alive shows that in reality there is no difference between black and white men. The colour bar is a creation of man to flaunt his vanity, ambition and greed.

In principle apartheid and discriminatory practices are condemned by the world at large and yet in practice no effective measures can be adopted to wipe out this shameful blot from human existence. The United Nations which is the only repository of hopes cherished by man for a peaceful, just and equitable life on this earth has been suffering one setback after another in its endeavours to realise human rights in Africa and elsewhere on this earth.

Several resolutions have been passed in the world body urging member nations to impose economic sanctions on the African racist regimes to force them into more civil behaviour towards the indigenous population. Yet none of these resolutions have been of any avail. The hard fact of our time is that the United Nations has assumed the role of a debating forum, where nations on the verge of a collision can let off their steam. While this is an essential role and is of great importance in safeguarding peace, it needs unreserved support of its members to take action in order to realise human rights and purposefully pursue the principles of its own charter.

HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE

Yesterday *Anis* welcomed the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's efforts to raise tea in the country and put forward a suggestion that the ministry's researchers also consider propagation of dates.

Dates are grown to some extent in Nangarhar, Laghman and Farah provinces. It also suggests bamboo and coconut which are not grown here at all, but it may be feasible to grow where dates are found.

Bamboo and coconut trees are highly profitable to grow because from their roots to their branches, inside and outside their fruits are profitable commodities.

The paper devotes its second editorial to the plight of displaced persons with particular reference to South African and South-West African refugees.

Victims of discrimination and segregation, these refugees deserve every kind of consideration, the editorial says.

The editorial urges all member nations of the United Nations organisation to extend their full backing and support to the world body to topple the edifice of the South African discrimination promoted by the policy of apartheid.

Yesterday *Anis* carries two letters from its readers. The first one is sent by the chief of the Publicity Department of the Kabul Municipal Corporation which answers charges of negligence in price controls made against the corporation.

Prices, says the letter, are the product of demand and supply situation in the market.

Nevertheless the municipal corporation does issue its own rates for items to be sold on the city's market in order to give the population an idea of what they cost.

However, if there are cases of excessive overcharging it is because the people rarely co-operate with the municipality.

"We can't given our present state of financial affairs, have a city policemen standing in front of the thousands of shops in the city," says the letter.

"We have some price control teams roaming the city, but that is all we have" it adds.

Another letter by a resident of Karte Parwan named Aber complains that the municipal corporation pays only half hearted attention to this residential district.

There are many streets, in this district, especially on the left hand side portion of it which should have

been paved long ago.

But they are not only unpaved they are still dirt roads.

After many years of waiting last year they laid some gravel on them. There were expectations that this would be followed by paving but there is no word of it yet, says the letter.

World Press

The North Vietnamese Communist party daily newspaper *Nhan Dan* made a brief mention about Robert Kennedy's decision to seek the Democratic nomination in this year's U.S. presidential elections.

It said that in recent statements, the senator said he was opposed to certain acts aimed at intensifying President Johnson's war and recommended "negotiations" as a means of solving the Vietnam problem.

But, the paper said "at the same time, he is opposed to the withdrawal of America's armed forces from Vietnam."

The paper, which commented on Sen. Kennedy's decision at the end of an article on the American people, said that "according to American public opinion, Robert Kennedy has gathered a substantial amount of support and is a fairly strong adversary for President Johnson."

Commenting on peace candidate Sen. Eugene McCarthy's showing in last week's New Hampshire primaries, the paper said, "McCarthy beat Johnson in New Hampshire although he only polled 42 per cent of the votes."

The United States embassy in Stockholm is sending the Swedish Foreign Ministry a vote after a hoax Sunday involving an embassy official, an American journalist and two American deserters, the State Department said.

The incident reportedly occurred after William Russell the European editor of *Army Times*, and embassy secretary Merle Earp had been asked to see the two deserters who were said to be seeking help in returning to their units, in West Germany.

The two officials turned up with identification documents, which would have enabled the deserters to

go back to their units, but the meeting was apparently a hoax arranged by the deserters themselves and by unidentified Swedes.

State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey said Russell had been instrumental in arranging for one American absentee to return to his unit a few weeks ago.

Soviet industry fulfilled its plans for February both as regards the volume of sales and the output of most of the important products, *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta* writes.

The increment of industrial production in the first two months of this year as compared to the same period of 1967 amounted to 11 per cent. This exceeds the average development pace of Soviet industry last year. In January-February labour productivity increased by 8 per cent, which is also better than the results in 1967.

Enterprises working under the new economic system also overfulfilled the plan. Working under the new system in February were 7,800 enterprises. They have greater rights in respect of using their financial and material resources. Only a limited number of indices is handed down to these enterprises from above that is from corresponding ministries and chief administration the paper writes.

Fedosov and Feofanov said in *Izvestia* it is only natural that more than 40 national Olympic committee expressed their will to boycott the 19th summer games if the basic law of Olympic games is broken.

The authors said that the only way out of the situation is to convene the emergency session of the International Olympic Committee since the meeting of the IOC executive committee planned by brute force cannot revise the decision of the IOC session.

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Commonwealth, Race And Colour

By John Grigg

People often talk of the Commonwealth idea, and Britain in particular is very often condemned for betraying it. But what is the Commonwealth idea?

Does it really exist, or is just an anodyne phrase—one of the many thought-substitutes which do duty in leading articles and perorations? Can we honestly say that there is any idea underlying the Commonwealth as an institution and providing its members with a common inspiration?

Those who answer in the affirmative go on to claim that the Commonwealth is (or was) based upon the idea of multi-racialism, or non-racialism. They see it as a pioneering attempt to transform an empire into a partnership of free nations, in which different races co-exist on terms of amity and equality.

But when racial differences are mentioned in this context, what nearly everyone has in mind is the difference between "white" and "coloured", which is not in fact a racial difference at all. The hope of idealists was that the Commonwealth would act as solvent for what is called the colour problem.

Race itself is a very elusive subject, on which it is difficult to speak or write with scientific precision, for the fairly obvious reason that the human race has not developed in watertight compartments.

Certain broad ethnic groupings may be noted, but there is no such thing as racial purity. Migration and intermarriage in less self-conscious ages than our own have made nonsense of exclusive doctrines of race. Humanity is a cocktail.

But if even race is a dubious

concept, how much more so is colour, and how absurd, above all, that the two should be identified. Pigmentation is a by-product of climate, as Shakespeare could see without the benefit of a scientific education. In "The Merchant of Venice", the Prince of Morocco begins his speech to Portia:

"Mislike me not for my complexion, The shadow'd livery of the burnish'd sun, To whom I am a neighbour and near bred..."

She turned him down, but not for his complexion. In Britain, the term "coloured" is now used quite indiscriminately to describe people whose ethnic group is the same as ours, or quite different.

The Asian community in East Africa, for instance, is ethnically distinct from the Africans, but not from the Europeans. As a rule, South Asians differ from British people in religion, and of course they differ to a greater or lesser extent, in colour.

But they do not differ in race—except in the colloquial and perverted usage of the word. Moreover, the Asians of East Africa are English-speaking, which is more than could be said for the Huguenots (the French Protestants who poured into England towards the end of the 17th century, and whose value as immigrants is never disputed.)

The legislation which the British Parliament has lately enacted to check the influx of Asians holding British passports has been denounced in every part of the Commonwealth as racist. Certainly, it discriminates in fa-

vour of whites and against non-whites, as previous British measures controlling immigration have done, though less explicitly.

So, if we accept the spurious distinction between whites and non-whites as the most obsessive "racial" distinction of our time, it is beyond question a racist act. What people believe to be true is often of greater practical importance than the truth itself.

In more valid, though perhaps less material, senses, racialism flourishes throughout the Commonwealth and is by no means confined to the United Kingdom or other white members.

There is strong racial feeling between Chinese and Malays, between Sinhalese and Tamils, between Africans and Asians of all sorts. But the colour conflict blinds people to the evils of racialism nearer home. New nations which otherwise have little in common are united in resentment against white racialism.

This is an inescapable hangover from the age of European dominance, and Europeans should understand the historic reasons for it. The British public and its leaders have tragically failed to see the point.

The refusal to use force against the Smith regime in Rhodesia, and the apparently growing prejudice against colour, have dealt what may be a fatal blow to the non-racial Commonwealth idea—the idea which new members set most store by. It was a muddled idea, and it was not free from hypocrisy. All the same, it was in Britain's interest to treat with respect and to act in the spirit of it, even at substantial risk (FWF)

No Scoffing At UFO, UK Scholar Says

By Penny Seebor

"It is our arrogance that makes us doubt the presence of 'flying saucers'. We expect no one to have reached a greater degree of knowledge than ourselves. And yet we first flew a powered aeroplane in 1903 and here we are today hurtling round the earth in space ships at 18,000 miles an hour."

These are not the words of a crank. They were spoken by Britain's leading aeronautical historian, Charles Harvard Gibbs-Smith, when he gave me his views on unidentified flying objects recently.

Gibbs-Smith's hand-books on aviation for the London Science Museum are the classic works on the subject. It was not, however, in the Science Museum that I met him but in the Victoria and Albert Museum for fine and applied arts where he is the head of the public relations and education department; here he has worked, apart from a spell at the Ministry of Information during the war years, since 1932.

"The average person who talks about 'flying saucers' both has not and will not read the evidence," he told me. Originally he himself had been very sceptical. "I gave one of the earliest broadcasts laughing the whole thing to scorn." Then he had read the evidence.

It had come as a shock to find how much had been written and said about unidentified objects in the skies and how many reliable people had sighted them. Now he believes that intelligent beings from civilisations perhaps thousands of times older and wiser than ours could be visiting us in space craft—and might well have been doing so for centuries.

Records going back thousands of years give descriptions of unidentified flying objects (now known as UFOs for short) which tally closely with the reports of modern observers.

Nearer to our time, he mentioned a ray in 1897 when 700 to 800 Americans saw an object which flew over four states. It was the French astronomer, however, who kept particularly precise records during the 19th century.

They noted sightings of bright objects, which they called "bolides" (large meteors), crossing the sky for up to 12 minutes before disappearing; it has since been established that "if an object is proved to have been in view for more than one minute, it is not meteor."

In this century, the Mount Palomar Observatory in California with its giant 200-inch telescope has revealed that "there are possibly millions of world like our own in the universe." He personally thought that "humans" visiting the earth could have come from one of two stars—Tau Ceti or Alpha Centauri—which are some 105 and 44 light years' distance from the earth respectively.

He pointed out that he had some very reputable fellow-believers (in the sense of taking the possibility very seriously), among them the distinguished American astronomer, Professor Tombaugh, who discovered the planet of Pluto in 1930. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the United States Air Force's scientific consultant on UFO cases, had turned from outright scepticism to near conviction. Hundreds of UFO reports had come from people whose work and standing would make them good judicial witnesses—scien-

tists, policemen, members of the armed forces and civilian pilots.

Quite apart from the tens of thousands of eye-witness reports, there had been innumerable radar sightings of unidentified objects; in some cases aircraft gun-sights had "locked" on to them. He also believed that there was some substance to reports that the communications systems at military installations in the United States had on occasion been affected by UFOs hovering above them.

Gibbs-Smith himself has never seen a "flying saucer" but, with the very comment that 70-80 per cent of all "flying saucer" photographs were fakes, he produced a photograph for whose authenticity he could vouch.

Taken by the friend of one of his assistants, it had been developed and printed by one of England's leading photographers and a blown-up version was exhibited at the Royal Institution and the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

Scientists were invited to suggest alternative explanations for this bright sphere trailing a tear-shaped cloud of light. Only one made a suggestion—that it was a parhelion, an atmospheric phenomenon better known as a "sun dog"—and this inference was based on study of a murky reproduction of the photograph in a national newspaper; this interpretation has since been vigorously contested by Dr. Hynek.

I asked him why most scientists refused to discuss seriously the possible existence of extra-terrestrial space vehicles. Why they were so quick to scoff at reported sightings of "flying saucers".

He thought this was partly because "it is thought perfectly proper for someone who is considered a leading man in some field to give his opinion on other subjects in which he has no experience, often without looking at the evidence."

As an example of the mistakes even great men can make by refusing to study the evidence, he showed me a letter written in 1896 by Lord Kelvin to a Major Baden Powell (a brother of the founder of the Boy Scout movement). In this letter, Lord Kelvin, one of Britain's leading scientists of the period, said that he would not think of joining the Royal Aeronautical Society because, although he knew about kites and balloons, he did not believe for a moment in the possibilities of the aeroplane.

This was written in the year when the great German Lillenthal completed his main series of gliding flights and only seven years before the Wrights' first powered flights.

"Why do people appear to find the whole idea of 'flying saucers' from outer space so funny?" I asked Mr. Gibbs-Smith. Well, he considered the very term "flying saucer" didn't help. It might describe the object appropriately, but "here is an element of humour in this". Then, "it is, of course, a very, very choice ground for crackpots." A very easy way to call attention to oneself. He himself did not believe reports of men from outer space with green faces and red eyes or pumpkin-shaped heads. The most credible sightings were those where the "humans" were "all wrapped up in space suits, as our own spacemen

would be on a journey to the moon."

People's reluctance to recognise even the possibility of extra-terrestrial space probes was comparable to the theologically-based scepticism and earth-centred attitude of the Middle Ages. "We are as bad as the medieval philosophers who were furious at the thought that the world went round the sun." People were happy to accept official explanations without questioning.

During the big "saucer" flap last October, two policemen in the West of England made what he termed a really excellent report on a "flying saucer" which they had followed for miles in their car. It was published in the Times under the heading "Constables Baffled".

Britain's Ministry of Defence then stated that the UFOs the policemen had seen were definitely United States Air Force planes refuelling in the air. The Sunday Express then established that all the American Air Force planes were grounded by the time of the sightings that night. The rest was silence—after an admission from the Defence Ministry that its former explanation did not hold water.

In the same month, astronomers attributed several UFO sightings over England's south coast to the unusual brilliance of Venus. Several days later a small paragraph appeared in the papers saying that Royal Observatory officials were convinced that Venus could be ruled out that there must be "something" up there after all, since one of the Observatory's friends had reported seeing an unidentified object flying below cloud level. But since the object was sighted below and not above the clouds, it was by definition of no interest to astronomers.

Of one thing Gibbs-Smith was sure. There is no conspiracy on the part of the British and American authorities to hush the whole thing up. As someone who has himself worked in the Ministry of Information, he explained that the junior officials offered "corny" explanations to journalists because the higher authorities had told them nothing.

"It is simply the fact that the authorities do not know enough to be able to give an official explanation. So they say nothing. What can they do?" He thinks there is some evidence that officials in America might be trying to discourage too much excitement about "flying saucers". They might be afraid of the type of panic which gripped north-east America after the famous mock radio announcement of a Martian landing in an Orson Welles programme in 1938.

Just before leaving Gibbs-Smith's office, I asked if he didn't think it curious that if it was true that intelligent beings were making such an effort to come here, they did not seem interested in communicating with us.

"We are always judging everybody by ourselves." The visitors might come from a civilisation so advanced technologically that they could travel faster than light. "Perhaps ten years to us is one minute to them." For all we knew a replacement crew might be born during the flight. Perhaps they could learn enough about us without ever establishing direct contact. In any case, from what they had seen, "they probably think we're pretty awful".

(FWF)

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Cruelty brings doom

Bahram Shah Ghaznavi, who ruled in the first half of the fifth century Higeria, had appointed a cruel governor in Ghor. One of the natives of Ghor after experiencing the oppression of the governor decided to submit his plea to the Ghazni ruler. After hearing the story Bahram Shah ordered a royal decree to be sent to the governor warning him to stop his injustice.

When the Ghorid arrives with the decree the governor puts him in a cell and tortures him to such an extent that he is forced to swallow the decree.

The Ghorid, unswayed by the treatment once again goes to Ghazni to complain about the new events.

Bahram Shah orders a stronger decree to be written. His secretary chooses a larger paper than the former to write the king's orders on.

The Ghorid amazed by the size of the paper pleads the secretary to write the decree on a small paper so that it may be swallowed without much difficulty.

Hearing this Bahram Shah is filled with laughter and when the man sees the king laughing carelessly he says: "It is indeed a pity to laugh at this moment when your orders have not been carried out by a subordinate."

The ruler depressed by the words, vows that he will rest and eat only after he has avenged the governor for his cruelty and disobedience.

He then girds his sword upon his lions, mounts on his horse and heads towards Ghor, together with his soldiers and emirs; and at the same time spreads the rumor that the party is going hunting in the mountain ranges of Ghor.

As the king reaches his destination he is greeted by the governor but when his eye falls upon the Ghorid he senses trouble and dismounts his horse to kiss the king's stirrups. But as he is about to do so Bahram Shah says: "I have vowed to punish the cruel and such flattering will not dissuade me from my decision."

The governor is punished for his disobedience and the Ghorid appointed in his place.

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Covered with snow and clouds the lofty peaks of the Pamir range are snow capped throughout the year.

EACH ONE TEACH ONE IN... BRAILLE

By Robert Mathias

For blind students of all ages, "Our youngest pupils", she told me, "are five-year-olds, and there's no upper age limit. Only the other day, an old lady of 80 left us after learning to read and write in braille."

ABAC specialises in the teaching of illiterate adults, a serious problem in Brazil as it is in many other countries, because most schools for the blind only accept children. At the ABAC centre, children and adults study in separate classrooms. The children take a primary course which prepares them for entry into state schools and colleges where, with mastery of braille, they can continue their education alongside sighted children.

For adults, the Association offers literacy courses together with vocational training in various manual trades: dress-making, toy-making, wiring electrical appliances, and so on, as well as in printing skills—typesetting, braille proof-reading, etc.

And this brings us to what is perhaps the most original and important aspect of Senhora Vellini-Achon's work—for her association also runs a small printing and publishing house and the new equipment and techniques developed there may lead to a minor revolution in the printing and teaching of braille.

What the Association set out to do was to develop a method which would enable a sighted person to teach a blind person to read and write without knowing braille himself. For, as Lelia Vellini-Achon pointed out, "there are many parts of the world where teachers of braille are in very short supply, not to speak of schools for the blind. The solution we hit on was very simple", she told me.

"Above the braille signs, which as you know, are arrangements of raised dots, we print the ordinary letters of the Latin or any other alphabet that correspond to the letters or sounds represented by the dots. This means that anyone who knows how to read and write can quickly learn to teach a blind person in braille. And, what is perhaps even more important, the reverse is possible, a blind person can teach a sighted illiterate."

"I said it was a 'simple solution', she continued, "but in actual fact, though the principle

itself is simple enough, it was extremely difficult to apply, because of the process used in printing braille. Traditionally, the raised dots are made by placing stiff paper between two metal sheets and using a special kind of composing machine with a keyboard. The actual printing requires a type of press which you find only in firms specialising in this work."

This difficulty was resolved in Sao Paulo after ten years of trial and error. "The device we eventually developed", said Senhora Vellini-Achon, "can be adapted to any kind of flat or rotary press and can be used with every grade of paper. What is more, it can be operated by any compositor, because the braille signs are impressed automatically when the 'visual' letters are printed. Apart from obvious savings in time and money, the new process will also lead to increase openings for blind people in the printing trade."

Lelia Vellini-Achon's story is an example of courage—the courage of a woman suffering from a severe handicap who has devoted her life to helping other handicapped people. The story has a happy sequel: after years spent in darkness Lelia Vellini-Achon can see again. "It is a miracle", she says, "the beginning of a new life for me, and of a new stage in my work."

(UNESCO FEATURES)

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New treatment for tuberculosis

Two new breakthroughs have been reported against tuberculosis—the world's most widespread infectious disease problem.

One is development of a new drug called Myambutol, which appears to cure when other medicine will not. Representatives of Lederle Laboratories of New York, who developed it after 10 years of research, said the drug has proved significantly effective in clinical trials involving nearly 3,000 tuberculosis patients in the United States and other countries. It appears to work in tuberculosis cases where the patient had become resistant to other standard drugs.

The other breakthrough is a new type of vaccination, with those to be immunised simply sitting quietly for about 45 minutes in a closed room while a mist containing anti-tuberculosis vaccine is sprayed into the room. The vaccination is accomplished by breathing in the mist. The method takes the place of vaccination through a needle puncturing the skin.

Tuberculosis research has been emphasised by scientists in the U.S. because it is widespread.

An estimated 1.5 billion people half the world's population—are believed to be infected with the germ of tuberculosis. The UN World Health Organisation estimates there are between 15 and 20 million active cases, with two to three million victims dying annually. U.S. medical men say about 30 million Americans may carry the inactive germ. New cases are reported in this country at the rate of 50,000 a year, and about 8,000 Americans die annually from tuberculosis.

The U.S. National Tuberculosis Association said that the Lederle anti-tuberculosis drug "appears to present a new breakthrough" in chemical treatment of tuberculosis, particularly in those patients who have not responded to prior treatment, and whose germs may be resistant to other anti-tuberculosis drugs. The Association is sponsoring a meeting in January to study clinical testing reports and prospects for future use.

The easy new way of vaccination was developed by Dr. Sol E. Rosenthal, director of the Institution for Tuberculosis Research at the University of Illinois.
(CONTINENTAL PRESS)

Provincial Press

By A Staff Writer

Commenting on the Rhodesian situation, *Ittefaq Islam* in a recent editorial says that the illegal regime of Ian Smith has revolted against all basic elements of law and civil rights. The hanging of several African nationalists by the Smith regime can only be interpreted as an stubborn defiance to world public opinion.

The Smith regime should first and foremost know that the land upon which it now claims sovereignty does not belong to the white minority. It is the land of Africans dominated by a colonial power. Several years ago the white minority without the consent of that colonial power proclaimed the unilateral independence of Rhodesia without making any provision in the constitution of that country that guarantee a majority rule.

Was it unusual for the majority of the people of Rhodesia to defy such a cruel and unjustified action. Although the Rhodesians revolted against the injustices of white minority, the national elements who opposed the regime were convicted to death in order to destroy African opposition within Rhodesia. More than 100 Africans are waiting in their death cells three of whom were executed despite a prerogative issued by Queen Elizabeth. Under all these circumstances it is important to refer to the stand adopted by the British government. The British government holds that the Rhodesian minority has revolted against the mother country. Supposing if such a situation will happen by a minority in the integral geographical confines of a country what will the government of that country do to curb such a revolt.

The measures adopted by the British government—primarily responsible for the events taking place in that country has been economic sanctions. The measures have not been effective because the government of South Africa, another country clinging stubbornly to a policy of racial discrimination has been indirectly sending all those items banned on Rhodesia.

There is no doubt that by refusing to obey the British Crown's prerogative the Smith regime has created a situation which should be dealt by the British more sternly.

Ittefaq Islam published in Herat, commenting on the opening of two diesel generators for electricity in that city, says that although the operation of diesel engines is expensive since diesel has to be imported Herat has been provided with such power until a hydro-electric power is produced there.

The newspaper says that at present planning to utilise such a system to generate power with water is under investigation. It is hoped that one day hydro-electrical stations will be built in this part of the country.

Ittehad of Baghlan in an editorial commenting on the new academic year says that the entire hope of our nation is fixed on our youth especially upon those attending schools at present. The paper says that the Minister of Education in his speech over Radio Afghanistan last Friday pin-pointed the concept of education in Afghanistan.

To him, as to all the Afghan nation the aim behind education in our schools is to pave the road for further progress and to foster our national unity in accordance with the principles laid down in the Constitution.

The minister in his speech was not exaggerating a bit and it is our hope that our educators at first and our students also will realise the vitality of the issue and see that education in this country achieve the ends set forth by our leaders.

The newspaper then refers to the ever-expanding number of schools in the country adding that under the circumstances in which we have adopted the concept mass education there will be times when we will have low standards but we sincerely hope that by adopting such a concept we will not loose the present standards of education.

As the Minister of Education Dr. Ali Ahmad Popal who is also the first Deputy Prime Minister pointed out that the first aim of the Ministry of Education was to train more teachers and to cope with this need teacher training schools have been opened in many parts of the country. In the end the newspaper refers to the commission established by the Prime Minister to investigate all phases of education in the country. The newspaper hopes that the commission will come out with proposals which will be of great value in achieving the aims of education in Afghanistan.

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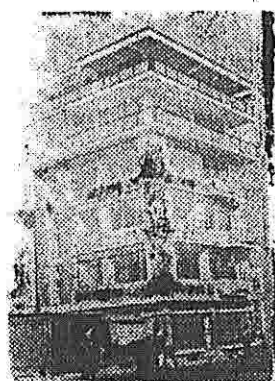
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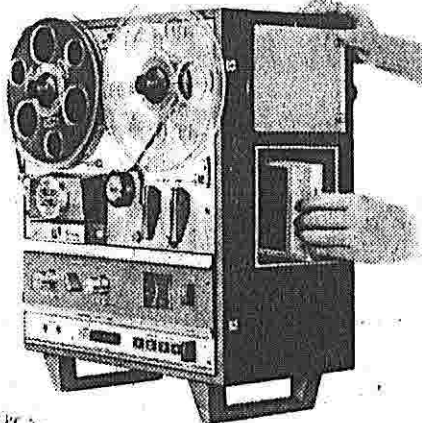


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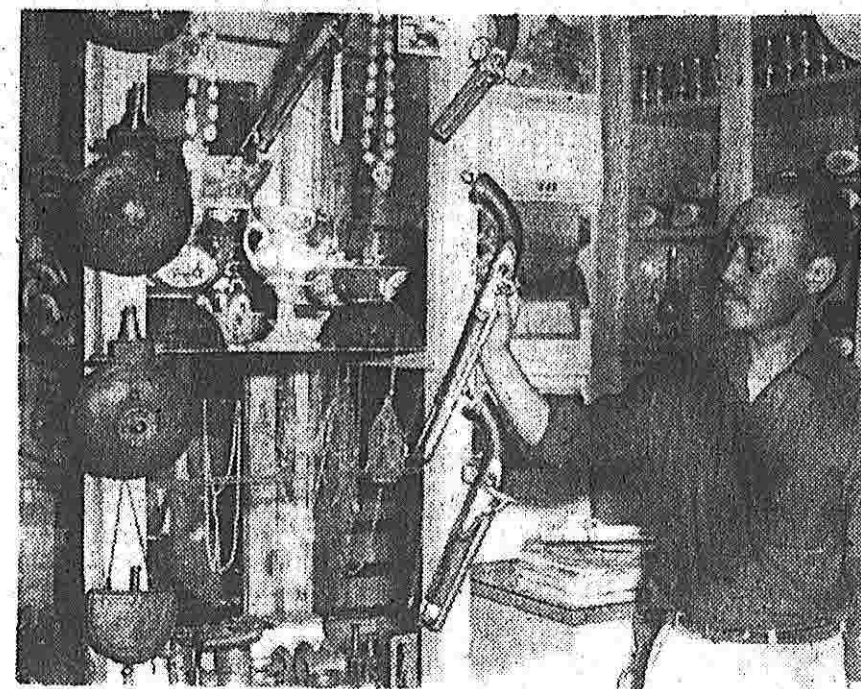
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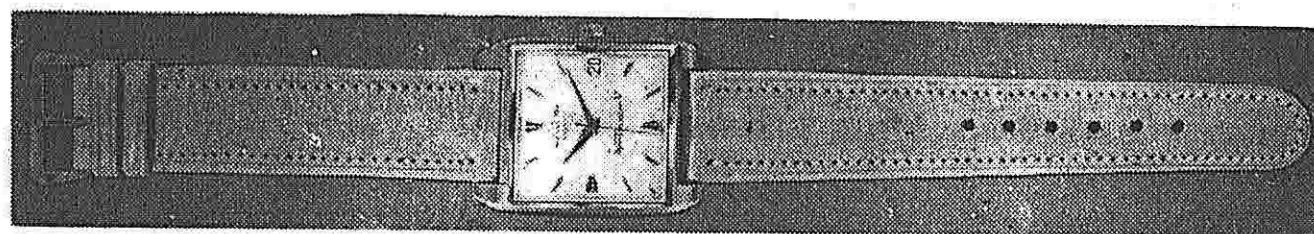
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